

NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY FOR ASTHMA REDUCTION GRANTS

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Dallas

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Children's Health Program is soliciting grant proposals to develop state capacity for work on childhood asthma through collaborative policy and actions of the state or tribal environment and health departments. The EPA seeks to compliment the work of a number of the states and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHOS) to bring state or tribal environment and health agencies together to address children's asthma. Proposals may originate from state or tribal environment or health departments, or from state or tribal asthma coalitions, and must describe the project and relationship to the goal of ensuring that state or tribal environment and health departments are engaged in working collaboratively to reduce exposure to environmental triggers that exacerbate or cause childhood asthma.

Project proposals must clearly outline the process to be followed to achieve state level collaboration to reduce childhood asthma, and should include intermediary goals. Grant recipient's proposal should include a plan to address the following goals:

1. Effectively communicate, coordinate, and share resources through partnerships and coalitions of individuals, organizations, and agencies.
2. Identify and educate the spectrum of individuals, organizations, and agencies that can improve the health of a child with asthma on best practices and methods to do so, using culturally competent approaches and strategies, and educate the general public about the significance of the problem.
3. Reduce or eliminate the exposure of children to established causes and to triggers of asthma in both indoor and outdoor environments.
4. Support continued research to determine the causes and triggers of childhood asthma and to identify effective ways to reduce them.
5. Establish systems to understand and uniformly track the burden of asthma.

EPA Region 6 plans to award up to two grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The final number of awards and award amounts will depend on proposal quality and resource availability.

DEADLINE: Proposals must be postmarked no later than Friday, **April 12, 2002**. Faxed and electronic applications will not be accepted. Please send your proposals to:

Evelyn Daniels, (6PD-T)
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

When will I be notified about the status of my proposal?

After EPA conducts a review and ranking of all submitted proposals, all applicants will be contacted. This may be as long as 60 days after the deadline date.

What happens if my proposal is selected?

Successful applicants will be requested to submit other documents such as the “Application for Federal Assistance” (form SF 424) and “Budget Information: Non-Construction programs” (form SF 424A) to complete the application process.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: To be eligible for funding, an applicant must:

- (1) Meet the standards for eligibility as identified in Section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act (page 1, paragraph 1).
- (2) Demonstrate the ability to implement and track the results of your project.
- (3) Demonstrate that the project goals and objectives can be achieved given the amount of the grant.
- (4) Format proposal as described below (see “**FORMAT**”).
- (5) Include a commitment to complete tasks described in the workplan within a maximum of 2 years from the date funded; however, a one year funding period is preferred.
- (6) Submit proposal by the established due date. **Proposals must be post marked on or before the due date, or they are not eligible for consideration.** Some facilities can post their own ship-date marks on packages. EPA staff will evaluate whether a proposal may reasonably have been shipped by the due date.

RANKING CRITERIA: Eligible proposals will be ranked in order of point value and funded, in that order, to the extent of the resources we have for these projects. Point value is assigned based on the criteria listed below. Each criterion will be rated based on a scale of 1 (does not meet the requirement) to 10 (exceeds the requirement).

- (1) Applicant’s proposal includes goals and objectives which are clearly stated that will bring state or tribal health and environment departments together in an active and visible collaboration to reduce or prevent children’s exposure to asthma triggers in the environment.
- (2) The grantee’s proposed budget is appropriate to achieve goals outlined in proposal.
- (3) Applicant’s proposal includes a plan to identify and educate a wide spectrum of individuals, organizations, and agencies that can improve the health of a child with asthma on best practices and methods to do so, using culturally competent approaches and strategies, and educate the general public about the significance of the problem.

- (4) Applicant's proposal identified actions to reduce or eliminates the exposure of children to established causes and to triggers of asthma in both indoor and outdoor environments.
- (5) Applicant outlines a plan and a process for state or tribal environment and health departments to support continued research to determine the causes and triggers of childhood asthma and to identify effective ways to reduce them.
- (6) Applicant agrees to provide quarterly performance reports to EPA which shall include, at a minimum, information about the above.
- (7) Applicant includes detailed information about impact of project, such as: documentation of state or tribal environment and health departments engaged in one or more of the suggested activities listed below.

FORMAT: Applicants must submit a work plan and a budget as described below. Please do not use any binders or folders. The proposal cannot exceed four 8½ by 11" pages, one sided (not including any required attached letters), with 12 point or larger font.

- 1) Title
- 2) Applicant Background - A description of the applicant organization, experience in indoor air quality work, experience related to asthma activities and the organization's infrastructure as it relates to its ability to implement their proposed project.
- 3) Applicant Staffing and Funding Resources - A description of staffing and funding resources necessary to implement proposed work plans, including the number of workers and staff qualifications. No resumes are required.
- 4) Applicant Project/Grant Experience - A description of experience implementing evaluation and tracking procedures and managing grants.
- 5) Project Period - The beginning and ending dates of the project.
- 6) Project Description - A description and time frame for implementation of the program. This will include the establishment of quarterly and final report submission dates.
- 8) Results - A description of outcomes expected.
- 9) Budget - The budget should contain the following categories: Personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, other/miscellaneous costs, total direct charges (sum of personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other costs), indirect charges and total (sum of total direct charges and indirect charges). An explanation should be included which describes the indirect costs. A table format (columns and rows) is suggested.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

State Asthma Summits

State or tribal departments of health and environment work with other partners to convene a meeting to discuss the issues surrounding the health and environmental concerns related to the childhood asthma epidemic with the goal of defining necessary next steps to reduce childhood asthma.

Data about Asthma

State or tribal environment and health agencies develop and implement an approach to better coordinate data systems used for relevant environmental data when this can contribute to better understanding of causes of asthma or ways to respond to it.

Data About Environmental Factors

State or tribal environment and health agencies or state asthma coalitions evaluate ambient monitoring locations to determine their relationship to areas where asthma rates are high or populations are at particular risk.

Integration of Environmental and Health Information

State or tribal asthma coalitions develop or support coordinated planning groups for childhood asthma prevention and reduction that include policy makers for several agencies that can contribute, including health, environment, housing, education, transportation, health care, child care, and welfare. Community-based organizations and business communities are involved. Where locally-based initiatives may be better able to change systems and reach targeted audiences, these groups may supported, in addition to statewide groups.

Education, Training, and Outreach

In cooperation with education authorities, state or tribal environment and health agencies develop and implement education programs for personnel at schools and child care centers to improve the indoor environment to reduce triggers and to support effective action in case of attacks.

Action and Practices to Reduce Indoor Environmental Triggers

Improved coordination between health providers (physicians, school nurses, etc.) who identify children with asthma, and environment and health agencies which provide in-home assistance.

Schools

Programs are developed to substantially reduce diesel bus idling on school premises.

Child Care Programs

States or Tribes work with child care centers (commercial and licensed residential) to incorporate asthma management and trigger reduction programs.

Action and Practices to Reduce Outdoor Environmental Triggers

States or Tribes work to develop alternative transportation strategies to reduce vehicular pollution particularly from diesel where this appears to be a significant concern for children's health.

Defining, Measuring, and Achieving Results

States or Tribes work to review and evaluate effectiveness of interventions and education programs for children's environmental health.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Evelyn Daniels (214) 665-7543.

All proposals must be postmarked or delivered to EPA's Region 6 Children's Health Program in Dallas, Texas no later **April 12, 2002**. EPA Region 6 anticipates making a selection of projects for funding in June 2002.